

I continue to be concerned about the small numbers of owners who control the media. I really believe that the media constitute the "fourth branch" of our government. A free and diverse media can supplement the judiciary, executive and legislative balance of power.

But it seems now there is so much emphasis on making a profit that gathering /reporting news is no longer done in an even-handed, comprehensive way. Consider for example that some outlets have cut international reporters. It seems that a small number of owners controlling lots of media outlets are too interested in the bottom line and not faithful enough to the important role they play in our democracy.

Now I read that Sinclair Broadcasting is demanding their stations put on an anti-Kerry documentary rather than air local offerings. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.